

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2386

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, PINT, ET, CU, YS
SUBJECT: CUBAN AND SOUTH YEMEN AMBASSADORS OUSTED AND OTHER
BAD NEWS FROM ETHIOPIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. AMBASSADORS OF CUBA AND PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE ADDIS ABABA, ACCORDING AL SAHAFA MAY 26. NEWSPAPER REPORTED FROM NAIROBI THAT TWO AMBASSADORS LEFT ETHIOPIA TEN DAYS AGO WITH YEGEDI LOBEN, PROMINENT ETHIOPIAN EXILE WHO HAD BEEN SMUGGLED BACK INTO ETHIOPIA FROM PARIS BY CUBAN AND YEMENI EMBASSIES. AL SAHAFA'S SOURCES SAID RETURN OF YEGEDI FROM EXILE WAS PART OF SOVIET-CUBAN PLAN TO CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ERITREA AND TO SPEED UP FORMATION OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH WOULD REPLACE MILITARY COUNCIL. QUOTING DIEWELT OF GERMANY, NEWSPAPER SAID FOREIGN COMMUNIST ALLIES IN ETHIOPIA WANTED CIVILIAN MARXIST GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE EPMG BUT MENGISTU EXPELLED BOTH AMBASSADORS WHEN HE DISCOVERED THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR YEGEDI'S RETURN. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN ADDIS NOTED THAT CUBAN AND YEMENI AMBASSADORS LEFT ETHIOPIA TEN DAYS AGO BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT THEY

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HAD BEEN EXPELLED, ACCORDING AL SAHAFA.

2. MEANWHILE SUNA REPORTED MAY 26 ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE ENGINEER AND THREE ARMY LIEUTENANTS RECENTLY ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN SUDAN. AIR FORCE ENGINEER SAID SOME 300 SOVIETS ARE NOW IN DEBRAZEIL (SIC) AIR BASE, DOING EVEN ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS, AND THAT 88 ETHIOPIAN PILOTS AND

TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN SENT TO USSR TO BE TRAINED ON
MIG-23 FIGHTERS. ARMY LIEUTENANTS REPRESENTING MILITARY
POLICE, ARMOR AND ENGINEER CORPS FLED FROM ASMARA, JIJIGA
AND ADDIS ABABA BECAUSE, THEY SAID, SOVIET-CUBAN INTER-
VENTION IN ETHIOPIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. SUNA CONCLUDES
SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES ARE IN CONTROL OF MILITARY
AFFAIRS IN ETHIOPIA. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: LOCAL OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED RELATIVE ABSENCE
OF REMARKS CRITICAL OF SOVIETS, ETHIOPIANS AND OTHERS IN
RECENT SPEECHES BY NIMEIRI AND OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY
STATEMENTS BY SUDANGOV. NEVERTHELESS PRIVATE REMARKS OF
NIMEIRI AND OTHER TOP LEADERS INDICATE THAT THEY REMAIN
DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN
ETHIOPIA. MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG ACKNOWLEDGED MODERATION IN
RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SUDANESE LEADERS AND HE EXPLAINED
TO ME MAY 26 THAT THIS WAS CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY SUDANGOV TO
AVOID EXCABERATING SITUATION DURING PERIOD LEADING UP TO OAU
SUMMIT HERE. WE BELIEVE APPEARANCE OF ARTICLES SUCH AS
THOSE REPORTED ABOVE WILL SERVE TO REMIND SUDANESE PUBLIC OF
CONTINUED TURMOIL IN ETHIOPIA AND INCREASING SOVIET-CUBAN
INFLUENCE IN MORE SUBTLE MANNER THAN DIRECT ACCUSATIONS
BY NIMEIRI.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE.

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